

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for speedy and substantially complete dehalogenation detoxification of ~~at least one of a~~ halogenated aromatic ~~and or a~~ halogenated cyclic compounds compound, comprising:

heating ~~at least one of said halogenated aromatic and cyclic compound~~ is heated on a support matrix in a closed system at a temperature of ~~[[200]]~~ 250 to 500 °C in the presence of:

(a) a copper compound, ~~in at least one of metallic form and in the form of copper compounds~~,

(b) a hydrogen donor,

(c) carbon, and

(d) at least one additional reducing substance ~~[[,]]~~ capable of reducing cupric and cuprous ions to a highly reactive elemental copper at said temperature.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said additional reducing substance consists of a copper compound with the character of a reducing substance.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said support matrix is a material contaminated by the at least one halogenated aromatic and cyclic compound intended for dehalogenation detoxification.